financed through a grant

(c) No, Sir

(d) Does not arise

Telecast of poor Visibility Programmes

2053 SHRI VILAS MUTTEMWAR Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state

(a) whether the video quality of the several programmes telecast by Doordarshan is very poor and sometimes picture remains very dim,

(b) if so, the reasons therefor, and

(c) the time by which video quality is likely to be improved?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (KUMARI GIRIJA VYAS) (a) to (c) The video quality of the Programmes telecast from Doordarshan kendras is generally satisfactory and conforms to desired technical standard However, in case of telecast of field based programmes produced outside studios, visual output of the telecasts are sometimes affected due to unavoidabale constraints, namely improper lighting, non-availability of desired positions for equipment, sound pick-up problems and multiplicity of segment through which signal has to pass It is the constant endeavour of Doordarshan to maintain the desired quality of the telecasts conforming to prescribed standards by adopting all possible means including close coordination with outside agencies

National Committee on Tourism

2054 SHRI SYED SHAHABUDDIN Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM be pleased to refer to the reply given on 26th November, 1991 to Unstarred Question No 706 and state

(a) the names and qualifications of the experts included in the National Committee on Tourism,

(b) the precise recommendations made by the Committee, and

(c) the status of implementation of each recommendation, separately?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM (SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA) (a) The names and designations of the experts who served in the National Committee on Tourism are the following

1 Shri Mohammad Yunus
Chairman
Trade Fair Authority of India

2 Shri S K Misra
Secretary
Ministry of Tourism

3 Dr (Smt) Kapila Vatsyayan
Secretary
Department of Arts

4 Shri K L Thapar
Adviser (Transport & Tourism)
Planning Commission

5 Dr K B Lall
Former Commerce Secretary
and
Ambassador to FEC

6 Dr B Venkataraman
Former Secretary
Ministry of Tounsm and
Civil Aviation

7 Shri A N Haksar
Former Chairman
I T C

8 Shri Inder Sharma
Chairman
SITA World Travel

9 Shri Gautam Khanna
Sr Vice President
Oberoi Hotels and

Chairman - Mercury Travels

10. Shri Rajan Jetley
Managing Director
I.T.D.C.

11. Shri A B. Kerkar
Vice Chairman & Managing Director
Taj Group of Hotels

12. Shri R.K. Puri
Sr. Vice President
I T.D C.

(b) and (c). The main recommendations and the status of their implementation are as given below:

	Recommendation	*Status*
1	The Linking of Incentive packages with the foreign exchange earnings will act as a catalyst for the hotels to attract more foreign tourists throughout the year.	Income Tax concessions have been linked to foreign exchange earnings & the benefits are now available under Section 80 HHD of the Income Tax Act.
2	A Tourism Finance Corporation with an initial equity of Rs 100 crores should also be set up to provide loans to the tourism industry and cater to its specialised needs.	TFCI has already been set up to cater to specialised needs of the tourism industry.
3.	Supplementary accommodation like private guest houses, tourist bungalows, forest lodges tec., which provides lodgings to a large segment of tourists should be encouraged through suitable incentives. It is comperatively less expensive to build, and also provides employment and additional income to the people.	A scheme of Paying Guest Accommodation has been indroduced. Under the scheme, concessions under section 80 HHD are applicable to the travel agents/ tour operators for booking paying Guest accommodation.
4	The interest subsidy should be available on the entire loan amount (at present it is available on Rs. 75 lakhs of the loan amount in each case) The rate of interest subsidy should also be increased from existing 1% to 3% in the case of 1—3 star category hotels. The element of subsidy should be regularly reviewed having regard to the escalation in construction costs.	For 4 and 5 Star hotel projects, 1% interest subsidy is now given upto a loan amount of Rs. 75 lakhs. 1,2 and 3—Star category projects get 3% interest subsidy on entire loan amount.

	Recommendation	*Status*
5	NRIs should be encouraged to invest in travel and tourism projects to the maximum extent possible To achieve this objective the existing ceiling of 74% on NRI investment in hotel companies should be removed	Implemented
6	Eustoms duty on plant machinery and equipment imported for tourism projects should be levied as for project imports This concession should also be admissible in the case of imports required for purpose of modernisation of properties	Implemented
7	At present hotels in specified backward areas only are eleigible for tax concessions under Section 80 HH of the Income Tax Act This conces sion shou'd be applicable to any district which has tourist potential but where no tourism infrastructure is available	For places with less than 300 rooms in hilly rural pilgrim areas & those places as identified by the Min of Tourism exemption from Expenditure Tax for 10 years & 50% exemption under Section 80 (i) of the Income Tax Act has been given
8	Telephone telex and LP Gas facilities need to be provided on a priority basis	The concerned Departments have already issued orders for providing telephone telex & LPG on priority basis
9	Foreign chefs cooks and other employed by hotels to provide ethinic food and facilities may be treated as technicians and exempted from the payment of Income Tax as in the case of other industries	Foreign chefs are now treated as technicians in so far as the Income Tax Act is concerned
10	To give the travel trade a competitive edge in its marketing efforts a Market Development Fund should be setup with the express purpose of promoting tourism	A scheme called Assistance for the Development of International Tourism has been introduced since December, 1988 along the lines of the Market Development Fund Under the scheme assistance is

	Recommendation	*Status*
	The corpus of the Fund and the modalities of its operation have been spelt out in the Report.	being provided to Travel Trade, State Tourism Corporations, ITDC, Air India, L.A. TAAI, PATA, IATO, ICPB etc. for taking up market development activities.
11	Having regard to the overall situation, it is but necessary to adopt a liberal policy to allow foreign airlines to meet the project demand to travel to and from India.	A liberal policy has been adopted in allowing foreign carriers to operate more and more services to India.
12.	Air-India should be converted into a joint-stock company with a part of its equity capital being held by the public This will also provide airline access to the market capital for financing its expansion programmes.	Not accepted.
13	Air-charters should be liberally allowed as long as the price of the total tour package is not less than the promotional fares applicable on scheduled air services to and from India.	The Charter policy has been substantially liberalised.
14	Indian Airlines should be partially privatised with the majority holding remaining with the Government. This will help to make the organisation more responsive to customer service.	Not accepted.
15.	Travel agencies should be provided terminals linked to the computerised reservation system of airlines and railways to facilitate ticketing, booking, etc.	This has been done in the case of Air India and Indian Airlines.
16.	Rail transportation has a Special fascination for foreign	A new air-conditioned rake for Palace on Wheels has been

	Recommendation	*Status*
	tourists as demonstrated by the successful rail tourism projects like the "Palace-on-Wheels". This train should be air-conditioned and refurnished in a "period" style The Great "Indian Rover", Tourist train should be reintroduced for the Buddhist Circuit A special train for "Tour of the Temples" in southern India should be introduced	introduced.
17	The Secretaria' the Operational wings of the Ministry of Tourism should be reorganised on the pattern of the Railway Board	Not accepted
18	A specialised management cadre for tourism called the Indian Tourism Service should be constituted	Not accepted
19	The training facilities for the first level of staff like stewards, bell boys, etc should be organised on the lines of modular programmes	Implemented
20	Universities should be encouraged to introduce tourism-oriented courses	some of the Universities have introduced such courses
21	The post-diplom nagement programme run by the Hotel and catering Schools should be strengthened and improved upon	Implemented
22.	Leading hotel establishments should be encouraged to adopt some of the institutes so as to upgrade the programmes, financially and qualitatively.	Implemented